(b) to (d). In the Budget for 1996-97, presented before the Parliament, no specific proposal has been made for concessional import duty on coal being imported by cement plants. However, the import duties on import of non-coking coal for all consumers, including those of the cement sector, has been reduced from 35% to 20%. This shall reduce the cost of imported coal for the consumers, including the cement plants located at coastal locations.

[Translation]

Capital Invested in Small Scale Units

4615. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contribution of the small scale units in the industrial development of the country is increasing for the last many years;

(b) if so, the percentage thereof during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the capital invested in small scale sector is less as compared to the total investment made in the industrial sector in the country; and

(d) if not, the percentage of the capital invested in small scale sector during each of the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 separately?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The contribution of the small scale sector in industrial production for the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 was 40.70%, 40.71% and 41.27% respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Trade with U.S.

4616. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of Indo-U.S. trade and details of total exports and imports during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have identified any barriers that impede the expansion of Indo-U.S. trade;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to remove these barriers;

(d) the details of projections for Indo-U.S. trade during the next three years; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to achieve these targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The Indo-U.S. trade during the last 3 years was as follows:-

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Year	Exports	Imports	Bilateral Trade	Balance of Trade
1993-94	12543.88	8599.85	21143.73	(+) 3944.03
1994-95	15764.32	9123.61	24887.93	(+) 6640.71
1995-96	18457.54	12805.25	31262.79	(+) 5652.29

(Source: DGCI & S. Calcutta)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The barriers include textile quotas, anti-dumping and countervailing duties, standards relating to health and environment etc. These are taken up bilaterally with the USA to ensure that market access is not unreasonably hindered. In case of any inconsistency or discrimination, India has a right to approach the WTO dispute settlement mechanism for redressal.

(d) India's trade with the USA is likely to grow in line with India's overall trade growth.

(e) In order to expand the Indo-US trade, there have been increased bilateral interactions both in Government and Private Sector. These include the visit by the Indian Prime Minister to the USA in May, 1994; US Commerce Secretary's visit to India in January, 1995; Indian Commerce Minister's visit to the USA in June 1995; the meeting of Indo-US Economic and Commercial Sub-Commission in April, 1995 in Delhi; the meeting of the Indo-US Business Council in October, 1994 in Washington and December, 1995 in Delhi; launching of Indo-US Commercial Alliance in January, 1995. Similar bilateral interactions are likely to continue in future also.

Withdrawal from Provident Funds

4617. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allow industrial units to draw funds from unutilized provident funds;

(b) the total quantum of such funds available at present;